

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

THE CLARA SMITH HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

308 Pennsylvania Ave

second

CITY, TOWN

Towson Md. 21204

VICINITY OF

Baltimore

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

COUNTY

**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**

☐ DISTRICT  
☐ BUILDING(S)  
☒ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☐ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

**PRESENT USE**

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Clara S. Smith

Telephone #: 825-3200  
 823-3667

STREET &amp; NUMBER

308 Pennsylvania Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Towson Md. 21204

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

401 Bosley Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Towson Md. 21204

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

T BA-1046 - 308 Pennsylvania

before 1898

This is one of the largest and most elaborately decorated houses in the East Towson neighborhood. The two-story frame house is L-shaped, with a projecting bay window on the west and a projecting three-story entrance tower on the north. The main block is three bays wide by one bay deep. A porch shades the north facade. The front door is composed of many panels and is surrounded by sidelights, panels, and a transom, all elaborately framed. A shallow, finely carved cross-gable rises from the porch roof.

**7 DESCRIPTION**

**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ UNALTERED  
☐ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

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308 Pennsylvania Ave.

This two-story frame house, one of the most elaborately decorated in the neighborhood, was built before 1898. The main block is three bays wide by two deep, followed on the southwest by a two bays deep, one bay wide wing. A one-story addition to the south has a porch on its east side. On the east side of the two-story wing stands a one-story addition to the south, and a two-story addition to the north.

The main block has a one-story bay window to the west and a (only slightly) projecting three-story tower centered on the north, or street, facade. The main entrance with sidelights and a transom, is located on the first floor of the tower. The second floor features two attached 2/2 windows, and the third floor has an arched 2/2 window. The north-south gable of the tower joins the perpendicular main gable at its peak. The elaborately carved barge board of the tower reflects the shape of the arched window. A 2/2 window lights each floor of the main block on either side of the tower. One window lights the east and south sides at each floor level, three windows light the west bay, and two windows light the second floor on the west. A semi-enclosed porch across the north has a hip roof supported by square posts. Semi-circular pilasters imbedded in the wall reflect the shape of the original porch columns. A small cross-gable rises from the porch roof above the entrance. This gable end is elaborately carved and decorated. The fine porch cornice displays a cyma recta molding. The exterior architraves consist of flat boards with molded heads.

The house is positioned over a stone cellar. Grey asphalt shingles imitating thin cut stone cover the house. Each window is flanked by lowered shutters. A large lot provides a spacious setting for the house.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE****PERIOD****AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW**

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

**SPECIFIC DATES****BUILDER/ARCHITECT****STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

This property was the replacement house for Clara Smith (wife of James Henry Smith, former pastor of the AUMP Church and early settler of E. Towson)

Around the early nineteenth hundreds, the Carver "colored" School, located on Lennox Avenue, was constructed as a replacement for the school located on Hillen Road. Because of the construction of the school, Clara Smith was forced to take residence at the Pennsylvania Address. The house has been inhabited by descendants of Clara Smith since her death in 1969.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**NAME/TITLE  
Marcus Pollock/coordinator Merry Stinson/architect 7/77ORGANIZATION  
Committee to Save E. Towson/ Towson Ymca DATE 323-8870STREET & NUMBER  
600 Chesapeake Ave. TELEPHONECITY OR TOWN  
Towson Md. 21204 STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



BA-1046

The Clara Smith House

308 Pa.

Towson, Md.

North

Merry Stinson

1977